Peace
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The Fellowship of Youth for Peace

World Youth Congress Holland 1928

BULLETIN

A Warless World in Our Generation

National Office
104 E. 9th Street, New York City

New England Office
6 Byron Street, Boston, Mass.

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Shall we Merge with the Fellowship of Reconciliation?

Dear Fellow-Member:

Before you read this letter, may we ask that you re-read thoroughly our letter of several weeks ago, appealing for advice and support in matters of finance, membership and policy? Following up the response to that letter we have met and considered the questions with which the F. Y. P. is faced, and now submit the following propositions to your judgment.

1. *Fusion with the Fellowship of Reconciliation.* For some months it has been a matter of serious inquiry on our part to discover how we as a youth peace movement could best function and with what emphasis. The question has been raised as to whether we are not now largely duplicating the work of other organizations rather than filling a sufficiently unique place. After consideration we think it best to propose fusion with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We mentioned in our last letter how we have been intimately allied with the F. O. R. ever since our first beginnings. Now that we have been seeking for a solution to our problem we have naturally been impelled to think of a union with them like that which obtained before the fall of 1924, when our Conference decided not to remain the youth group of F. O. R. but to become independent and more general in our basis for membership.

So, we recommend merger. We believe that we should unite with the F. O. R. on the present basis of membership—a philosophy of life based on the principle of love as seen in Jesus which leaves no place for the individual to take part in war. They feel that such a basis is a matter of major importance. We of the Central Committee, as a result of our

inquiries and much searching of heart, believe that it is fundamental to the cause to which we are committed. There are also these added considerations. (1) Duplication of effort will be reduced. (2) The F. O. R. will benefit by the inclusion within its membership of a group which is peculiarly conscious of its call to carry the gospel of peace to the youth of our country. (3) We who have been using the F. Y. P. as our agency will be bulwarked by an older organization of firm foundations, possessed of a better grasp of effective methods and of more facilities for financial support. Again we shall gain by a sharpening of issues.

It is only right to list at this time the detriments attached to such an act of fusion. (1) We may lose those who cannot as yet conscientiously take the absolutist position. (2) We may lose those who do not conceive of the movement as on a spiritual basis. (3) We may lose perhaps a certain dynamic which arises from the separate identity and absolutely unhampered self-rule of a distinct youth group. We acknowledge these to be real values, but we always have to choose between values. We would hope that as the youth section of the F. O. R. we would have attending our meetings and participating in our other activities an "interested group," not members but desirous of sharing and learning with us—just as the F. O. R. has today.

The question now to be decided involves the future policy of F. Y. P. rather than our personal stand regarding absolute pacifism and Jesus' way of life. It is not a question of our doubting the need of other types of peace organizations, it is rather whether or not we hold that issues must be made keener, membership more meaningful, by having our movement as such become part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation movement leaving the field of other programs to other groups. It is possible that many of you to whom we write could not conscientiously become members of the F. O. R. What we ask you to vote on is whether you think F. Y. P. should at this time take this step.

2. *Dropping of the name "Fellowship of Youth for Peace."* If we do join F. O. R. we recommend that our present name be dropped, and that we become known simply as "The Youth Section of F. O. R." In so doing, we buttress ourselves by the international connections of the F. O. R., and signify to the public at large that an actual change in our policy has been consummated. On the other hand, there are these disadvantages: we may lose the distinctive appeal made to youth by the separate name, and also the associations which have grown up around the name Fellowship of Youth for Peace.

3. *Technical matters.* We recommend the following proceedure in matters of organization, etc. In the first place, a "gentleman's agreement" with the F. O. R. Council that adequate representation of the youth section by some of its own members on the Council of F. O. R. will be urged. Those youth members of the main Council would in turn form the nucleus of the Youth Section Council. Secondly, at least one full time Secretary for the work of the Youth Section. Thirdly, office facilities, literature, etc., now shared, now separate, as the case demands. Fourthly, special Youth Conferences as well as the regular Conferences of F. O. R. (And remember—there will be a Conference in early September. Begin now to arrange your plans to attend it.) Fifthly, the budget of the Youth Section to be included in the regular F. O. R. budget; the Youth Section undertaking to secure as great a response as possible from its own members.

The Central Committee will formulate the results of the referendum and present them to the Conference for final confirmation.

Please let us hear from you at once. You are participating in a decision which we believe will be mightily significant in the progressive contribution of American youth to world peace. Make a careful, earnest judgment.

FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Earl S. Bellman
Dorothy Biddle
Charlotte Bridgeman
Samuel Cornelius
William C. Craver
Dorothy Detzer
Dorothy Dunning
Carl W. Gamer
George H. Hallett, Jr.
Thomas Que Harrison
Eleanor Kapp
Patrick Malin
Thornton B. Penfield, Jr.
Richard Perdew
Beatrice I. Price
Robert Raible
Galen Russell
Eunice Shaughnessy
Esther Whitson
Raymond Wilson

Tear off and return immediately.

QUESTIONNAIRE

FELLOWSHIP OF YOUTH FOR PEACE
104 East 9th Street, New York City.

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1. Do you believe that the F. Y. P. should become the Youth Section of F. O. R.?.....(Yes or No)

Remarks:

2. Do you favor abandoning the name "F. Y. P." and calling our movement simply "The Youth Section of F. O. R."?.....(Yes or No)

Remarks:

3. Do you approve the technical recommendations of the Central Committee?.....(Yes or No). If withholding full approval, wherein would you amend them?

Remarks:

Signed .....

Permanent Address .....

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